

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Drinking Water Testing

How is the drinking water testing done for lead and copper in Hilshire Village?

A static sample set has been established since the 1990s and was selected based on the following criteria: (1) when the home was built – prior to 1982, and (2) what type of interior piping is in the home. A collection bottle and instructions are sent to each tap sample site and the homeowner is responsible for the collection and return of the water sample to the laboratory testing facility. The results are sent to the Texas Center for Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

What is the frequency of the testing for lead and copper in drinking water?

Annually, typically in July.

Why are homes built before 1982 selected?

Homes built prior to 1982 contain either lead pipe or copper pipe with lead solder for connections. Both lead pipe and lead solder used to connect pipes contain lead which can leach out over time from corrosion and into the drinking water supply in your home. The material was banned in 1981 because of the serious health risks caused by lead exposure. Older homes that may contain these materials are the preferred tap sample sites for testing because they will reveal the ‘worst case’ results.

What is the action level to trigger a lead exceedance?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has defined an action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 0.015 milligrams of lead per liter of water (mg/L) as a lead exceedance. While this level does not present an immediate health danger, it is the threshold that warrants additional testing and monitoring.

It is important to note that this is not a violation under federal or state law, it does however, prompt the City of Hilshire Village to have to post Lead Public Education information and take action if found to have a high level reading in subsequent sampling.

What were the lead levels in this year’s testing in Hilshire Village?

Eight of the ten tap samples were below the action level of 0.015 mg/L. The two readings above the action level were 0.0216 mg/L and 0.0822 mg/L. It is important to note that although these are above the action level, they are very low and warrant only increased monitoring and testing.

Test result reports are available on Texas Drinking Water Watch <http://dww2.tceq.texas.gov/DWW/>. At the home page enter **1012987** in the WATER SYSTEM NO. field. Click on SEARCH FOR WATER SYSTEMS at the bottom of the page. When your systems name comes up, click on the PWS ID Number to the left of the name.

Should I have my water tested at my home?

It is at the discretion of the homeowner. If your home is older and/or may contain lead pipe or copper pipe with lead solder, you may want to consider testing.

What can I do to minimize my lead exposure?

1. **Run water to flush out lead.** Run water for 15 - 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
2. **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.** Do not cook with or drink water from the hot water tap; lead dissolves more easily into hot water. Don't use water from the hot water tap to make baby formula.
3. **Do not boil water to remove lead.** Boiling water will not reduce lead.
4. **Look for alternative sources or treatment of water.** You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead. Be sure to maintain and replace a filter device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to protect water quality. Contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.
5. **Get your child's blood tested.** Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead, if you are concerned about exposure.

How is the City addressing this issue?

In cooperation with TCEQ, the City of Hilshire Village will perform increased water sampling and treatment techniques as follows:

1. **Tap Water Lead and Copper Monitoring:** A Public Water System (PWS) that exceeded the lead or copper action levels is required to **collect tap samples** in two consecutive six-month monitoring periods at the standard number of sample sites based on population. For Hilshire Village this sample set is 20 tap samples. The original set of sample taps must remain static for control purposes and 10 incremental sites will be selected per TCEQ parameters. The tap sampling will occur in January and July of 2016.
2. **Source Water Lead and Copper Monitoring:** A PWS is required to sample **source water entry point(s)** after an exceedance. Source Water Lead and Copper Monitoring should be collected at every entry point to the distribution system no later than 180 days after the end of the monitoring period during which the exceedance occurred.
3. **Distribution System Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Monitoring:** A PWS is required to perform two consecutive six month periods of WQP monitoring **within the distribution system**. WQP monitoring consists of two sets of distribution system samples and must be submitted twice annually. Based on population size, Hilshire Village will test two (2) samples from the distribution system in each six month period.
4. **Entry Point Water Quality Parameter (WQP) Monitoring:** A PWS is required to perform two consecutive six month periods of WQP monitoring **at the points of entry** to the distribution system. WQP monitoring consists of two (2) sets of entry point samples and must be submitted twice annually.

The City of Hilshire Village will notify all water service customers of the results of the increased testing program during each six month testing period.

What will happen if there is still a lead exceedance after subsequent testing?

The City of Hilshire Village will implement a program to minimize lead in your drinking water which may include adding corrosion control treatment, source water treatment, and if necessary replacing lead service lines.

Whom shall I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact Susan Blevins, City Administrator/City Secretary, at the City Office via 713-973-1779.